

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): An image formation method comprising:
forming an electrostatic latent image on the surface of an image holder;
developing the electrostatic latent image by using a charged toner; and
transferring a toner image from the image holder onto an image-receiving unit by
applying a transfer bias to the image receiving unit;
wherein an amount of the transfer bias is set such that potential differences between
surface potentials of an image section and a non-image section of the image holder and a
surface potential of the image-receiving unit generate a discharging at the image section and
do not generate a discharging at the non-image section.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The image formation method according to claim 1,
wherein the image-receiving unit is an intermediate transfer unit that transfers a
primary-transfer toner image on the image holder onto a transfer material as a secondary
transfer.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The image formation method according to claim 1,
further comprising:

setting a surface potential V_{t1} of the image-receiving unit to satisfy

$$|V_i - V_{t1}| < V_d, |V_b - V_{t1}| > V_d$$

where, V_d represents a potential difference at which a discharging is started between
two objects in the environment of forming an image, V_i represents a surface potential of the
image section on the image holder, and V_b represents a surface potential of the non-image
section on the electrostatic latent image.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The image formation method according to claim 2,
wherein the following relationships are satisfied

$$|V_i - V_{t2}| < V_d + |V_{t3}|, |V_b - V_{t2}| > V_d + |V_{t3}|$$

where, V_d represents a potential difference at which a discharging is started between two objects in the environment of forming an image, V_i represents a surface potential of the image section on the image holder, V_b represents a surface potential of the non-image section on the image holder, V_{t2} represents a potential applied to the ~~primary transfer section of the~~ intermediate transfer unit, and V_{t3} represents an attenuation of a potential difference due to the intermediate transfer unit.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The image formation method according to claim 3,
further comprising:

setting the potential difference V_d , at which a discharging is started between two objects in the environment of forming an image, to 320 V.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The image formation method according to claim 2,
wherein a material that constitutes the intermediate transfer unit has a volume
resistance of $1 \times \text{103-10}^3$ to ~~1010-10~~ $10^{10} \Omega \text{ cm}$.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The image formation method according to claim 4,
wherein a material that constitutes the intermediate transfer unit has a volume
resistance of $1 \times \text{103-10}^3$ to ~~1010-10~~ $10^{10} \Omega \text{ cm}$.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The image formation method according to claim 1, further comprising:

amplifying a potential difference between the image section and the non-image section of the image holder prior to the transfer of the toner image onto the image-receiving unit.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The image formation method according to claim 8, wherein the potential difference is amplified by irradiating a beam onto the toner image after the surface of the image holder has been re-charged.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The image formation method according to claim 1, wherein the developing ~~unit~~ is a wet-type developing ~~unit~~ that develops ~~an~~ the electrostatic latent image formed on the image holder[[,]] by using a liquid developing agent.